

Message Text

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PAGE 01 MOSCOW 08170 190955Z
ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 NSAE-00 NSCE-00
SSO-00 ICAE-00 INRE-00 PM-05 SP-02 SS-15 INR-10
PA-01 /046 W
-----076609 191006Z /15

O 190938Z APR 78
FM AMEMBASSY MOSCOW
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0659
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
INFO AMCONSUL LENINGRAD
AMEMBASSY BONN
AMEMBASSY WARSAW

C O N F I D E N T I A L MOSCOW 08170

PASS USDEL SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINT, UR
SUBJECT: BREZHNEV MAINTAINS ACTIVE SCHEDULE

REF: MOSCOW 7424

1. JUDGING FROM HIS APPEARANCES ON SOVIET TV APRIL 17 AND
18. BREZHNEV REMAINS REASONABLY FIT BUT CONTINUES TO EX-
PERIENCE SOMEWHAT MORE DIFFICULTY WITH PUBLIC SPEAKING THAN
IS USUAL FOR HIM.

2. THE APRIL 17 EVENING TV NEWS SHOWED BREZHNEV GREETING
GIEREK AT THE AIRPORT EARLIER THAT DAY. BREZHNEV'S PHYSI-
CAL APPEARANCE SEEMED NORMAL, ALTHOUGH HIS GAIT WAS A BIT
STIFF. AS BREZHNEV ESCORTED GIEREK TOWARD THE TERMINAL
BUILDING, GIEREK SEEMED TO WANT TO WALK AT A FASTER CLIP
BUT BREZHNEV DID NOT ALTER HIS RELATIVELY SLOW PACE.

3. THE APRIL 18 EVENING NEWS CARRIED A LENGTHY FILM AC-
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COUNT, WITH SOUND, OF BREZHNEV AWARDING GIEREK THE ORDER
OF THE OCTOBER REVOLUTION, IN CONNECTION WITH GIEREK'S
65TH BIRTHDAY. ON THIS OCCASION:

-- AS WITH HIS LAST TWO PUBLIC SPEECHES, BREZHNEV SLURRED
BADLY IN TWO OR THREE INSTANCES;

-- HE READ THE BRIEF AWARD SPEECH SLOWLY AND WITHOUT PARTICULAR EMPHASIS OR FLAIR;

-- HE SEEMED SOMEWHAT FLUSTERED AT THE END OF THE SPEECH, ALMOST NEGLECTING TO SHAKE GIEREK'S HAND, FUMBLING AROUND WITH HIS READING GLASSES (KULAKOV, STANDING JUST BEHIND BREZHNEV, WAS SHOWN BY THE TV CAMERA SLIPPING LEONID IL'ICH THE CASE FOR HIS GLASSES, WHICH BREZHNEV APPARENTLY HAD DROPPED) AND FUMBLING WITH THE TEXT OF HIS SPEECH (HE TRIED UNSUCCESSFULLY TO STICK IT IN HIS JACKET POCKET; CHERNENKO NOTICED THE PROBLEM AND POLITELY BUT FIRMLY PUSHED HIS WAY PAST USTINOV AND KOSYGIN TO TAKE THE SPEECH FROM BREZHNEV). TOON

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